purposes, such as hay, punnac, bones and fish. He suggested that Government, besides prohibiting the export of the above mentioned articles, should either directly take up the trade in bones or lend their aid to private enterprise in that direction. The ryots in general being poor could not find funds for the purchase of manures without raising loans at high rates of interest. It was therefore desirable to make arrangements for the sale of manures on credit from the depots, at least to such of the ryots as were pattadars of lands, provision being made for realising their value at the time of harvest or in default for recovering the same under the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

He next complained that there were no facilities for the recovery of small loans and the process of recovery through Munsiff's courts involved much loss and delay. Ryots were therefore unable to raise small loans for agricultural purposes except at exhorbitant rates of interest. The need for establishing an adequate number of Panchayat courts in the taluks or villages of Nanjanad was advocated.

The Member then spoke of the paddy pest known as *urai* (ഉരായ), a ruinous weed arresting the healthy growth of paddy. The only known method of eradicating the pest was to put what were now double crop lands under single crop continuously for a period of three years. That involved loss to the ryots. He therefore prayed that, in respect of lands put under single crop for eradicating the pest, remission of tax should be allowed.

Consequent on the strained relationship between the ryots and the P. W. D. authorities, great difficulty was being experienced in the matter of getting adequate and steady supply of water for irrigation purposes and also great loss was being caused to the Government and the ryots by reason of breaches in the irrigation channels traceable to neglect on the part of the authorities concerned. In view to remedy those defects, it was desirable that the Irrigation Board system now in contemplation should be brought into being at an early date.

Lastly, the Member stated that about 2,350 candies of tobacco were being annually imported into the State *via* the frontier chowkey at Aramboly and that a sum of Rs. 2,25,600 went out of the State on account of its value. There were extensive lands at Aramboly and other places fit for tobacco cultivation. If permission be given, those lands could be brought under tobacco cultivation, with profit both to the Government and the people.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's subject covers a vast ground and it is not possible to reply in detail. All the matters mentioned by him are receiving and will continue to receive the attention of Government.

47. The needs of the people of Quilon in respect of agriculture and means of communication.

Mr C. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) brought to the notice of Government the need for the following four branch roads for facility of communication :—

(i) A branch road from Ramankulangara market in West Quilon and connecting that market with the Marathady temple and the inland lake known as Vattakayal under the control of the Fisheries department. There was formerly a way of 20 links in width leading to Vattakayal, but as the way had since been encroached upon by adjoining land owners, it should be restored to its original width and converted into a cartable road extending to the beach and forming the northern boundary of the town limits of Quilon.

(ii) The branch village road from the 34th mile-stone on the Trivandrum-Quilon road to Kottarakara *via* Velinallur might be converted into a cartable road. That branch road would, besides conferring a great blessing on agriculturists, also increase the value of unregistered puduval lands in the vicinity.

(iii) The village road two miles in length connecting the 35th mile stone on the Trivandrum-Quilon road and the 11th mile stone on the Ayur-Ithikara road might be made cartable for the benefit alike of agriculture and of the travelling public who, in going to Ayur had to pass through a round-about way of seven miles from Chathanur.

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(iv) The lane leading from the Quilon Residency road a little to the west of Kadapalkada and from the western end of Vayal veedu in Asramom to the northern most extremity of Uliakoil backwater might be converted into a cartable road to provide facilities for carting manure and agricultural produce. The site had already been inspected by the Dewan in company with the Peishkar, but nothing had been done as yet. He therefore requested that orders might be issued for the speedy construction of the road.

In conclusion, the Member suggested that the construction and maintenance of the above roads might be entrusted to responsible persons of the locality, instead of to the P. W. D., with a subsidy from Government.

Dewan's reply.—Government are thankful to the Member for his suggestions which will be looked into.

48. Agricultural needs of the Mavelikara taluk.

Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) prefaced his representation with a few remarks on agriculture in general and offered suggestions for its improvement. The following were his suggestions :—

(i) That scientific knowledge in agriculture should be imparted to the people. Towards attaining that object, the Member suggested that, besides the teaching of the elementary principles of agriculture in the vernacular schools, purely agricultural schools should be opened at all convenient centres for imparting instruction in relation to the higher principles and practical lessons in agriculture, with demonstration farms attached thereto and placed under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture.

(ii) That scientific methods of cultivation should be popularised,

(*a*) by the opening of experimental farms in every taluk under the supervision of Inspectors ;

(*b*) by demonstrating to the ryots the advantages of seed selection, improved tools and appliances, the system of intensive cultivation and cattle breeding on the lines adopted by the department, and

(*c*) by the holding of agricultural exhibitions in different parts of the State.

(iii) That the extent of land under paddy cultivation should be increased by propogandist work as was being done in the case of the uncultivated areas commanded by the Kodayar project. There was much scope for such propoganda, as vast areas suitable for paddy cultivation were available in Central Travancore and in the forests, backwaters, &c. of the State. To make the State self-supporting in the matter of paddy required for consumption, it was necessary that care should be taken not to register away waste lands and porambokes in the names of foreigners.

(iv) That necessary facilities should be provided for cultivation. In reference particularly to Central Travancore, the Member said that there were no facilities for irrigation and drainage; that there was a net work of canals and channels useful for the purpose but that, for want of maintenance, they were silted up or were encroached upon by the adjacent land-owners. Effective steps should be taken to restore their *status quo ante.*

The Member then proceeded to enumerate the needs of Mavelikara. There were 30,000 paras of punja lands in the Nuranad pakuthi, locally known as Karingali chal. The chal was surrounded on three sides by hills and on one side by the Kulakada river. The land level was lower than the river bed. As such, sowing commenced in Kumbham and harvest in Edavom, when the monsoon invariably set in and the whole crop was destroyed by the action of the flood. The Member, therefore, suggested that the post of an Agricultural Engineer should be created to inspect such uncultivable areas and suggest measures to convert them into profitable paddy growing areas. As repeated representations made at the Assembly on the matter

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